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Identical letters dated 5 February 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform that on Wednesday, 3 February 2016, armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired shells at residential neighbourhoods in a number of Syrian governorates.

In the morning of Wednesday, 3 February, armed terrorist groups indiscriminately fired dozens of mortar shells and rockets at the peaceful residential neighbourhoods of Dar'a city. The attack occurred at the busiest time of the morning, just as civilians and students were heading to their jobs and schools. Seventeen civilians were killed and 101 others, including women and children, sustained injuries of varying severity. The attack also caused tremendous material damage to the homes, shops and infrastructure of the areas that were targeted.

The armed terrorist groups also indiscriminately fired shells at some peaceful residential neighbourhoods in Aleppo city, causing 10 civilians to sustain injuries of varying severity. Terrorists from the so-called Army of Islam indiscriminately fired a hail of shells at the residential suburb of Harasta in Rif Dimashq governorate. One staff member of the secondary school in that suburb was killed and two others injured when a shell struck the school. A child in the town of Si'in, Hamah governorate, was gravely injured when a shell fired by the armed terrorist groups fell near him.

Those indiscriminate attacks against peaceful residential neighbourhoods in a number of Syrian cities are a continuation of the terrorist crimes being committed by armed terrorist groups that are referred to as "the moderate armed opposition" by the regimes and Governments that support and finance them. Those "moderate groups" have recently stepped up their indiscriminate terrorist attacks on the orders of their masters in Riyadh, Doha and Ankara, as well as certain others parties that are known to the international community. Such attacks caused, only a few days ago, the third Geneva conference to be delayed. Looking to the near future, they will also undermine efforts aimed at launching an intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership. This indiscriminate shelling is also meant to lift the morale of the terrorists, who are withering before the forces of the Syrian Arab Army, which is fighting terrorism on behalf of the States of the world.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the Security Council must take stern measures against the regimes and the Governments of the

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States that support and finance terrorism, in implementation of the Council's relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.